



DARPA Grand Challenge

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Leveraging American Ingenuity
for Our National Defense

Key Facts: DARPA

- Central research and development agency for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
- Manages and directs DOD's basic and applied research and development projects
- Pursues projects with high risk and high payoff, with potential for dramatic advances for military
- Helped create the Internet, Stealth aircraft, smart bombs, the pilotless Predator plane



Key Facts: The Grand Challenge

- Autonomous robotic ground vehicle competition in March, 2004
- 300-mile course of off- and on-road terrain between Los Angeles and Las Vegas
- Course developed by SCORE International
- \$1 million cash award to team that most quickly completes the course in less than prescribed times
- Grand Challenge program mandated by Congress



Grand Challenge Mission

- Grand Challenge program: recognizes achievement in support of DOD's missions
- Congressional goal: one-third of Armed Forces' ground combat vehicles unmanned by 2015
- Spur accelerated development of autonomous robotic ground vehicles for military applications
- Foster innovation and new synergies through non-traditional partnerships



Calling Innovators in Many Fields

- Academia
- Advertisers/sponsors
- Artificial intelligence
- Automotive
- Computer programming
- Defense contracting
- Futurists
- Inventors
- Motor sports
- Motion pictures
- Off-road enthusiasts
- Remote sensing
- Robotics
- Science fiction
- Technology
- Video game publishing



Timeline

- Feb 22, 2003: Competitors' Conference
- Apr 01, 2003: Application Period Opens
- Oct 14, 2003: Application Period Closes
- Mar 11, 2004: DARPA Tech Ceremonial Start
- Mar 12, 2004: Qualification Inspection & Demonstration
- Mar 13, 2004: Grand Challenge Main Event



A Chance to Make History

- Major future initiative with DOD and Congressional support
- Closely watched by policymakers and leaders in defense, technology, science and academia
- Extensive media coverage before, during and after
- High-profile four-day series of events
- Innovations from trailblazers and pioneers

